



NEWS NOTES

August 23, 1974

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES MOVE FOR NEW NATIONAL PRIORITIES

901 N. Howard Street, Baltimore, Md. 21201

formerly *Business Executives Move for Vietnam Peace and New National Priorities*

□□ NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The earth-shaking transfer of power to the new President has released new energies which are still expanding outwards in a transforming manner. A new era has come with amazing swiftness in our relations both at home and abroad. The President's stand for healing wounds has brought remarkable response. His desire for a good marriage between the Executive and the Congress is so right. A self-confident Congress matches a confident, open and conciliatory President. The essential goodness of our political system, — our faith and our institutions — are newly revealed. The system works!

You, too — we all — are part of the new era. In its formative stages our opportunity is great *right now*. We must not let it slip through indulging ourselves in a comfortable feeling of euphoria. We must express our views and hopes afresh not only to the new Administration but to our Senators and Congressmen, who are coming home August 23 until September 5 and 11, respectively.

We at BEM have much to say to them. We can gratefully recognize new possibilities for our beloved country, reemphasizing the things that matter and getting on with the business of effectuating our national and international goals.

□□ THE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP

The President's choice of a liberal Republican Vice President, his calling a meeting of the Black Caucus, and his impromptu visit to the Senate and House floors are symbolic of his being a President of all the people. We can expect him to work in cooperation with the other branches of Government.

His voting record in the Congress is well-known to BEM-ers. It has been consistently conservative and promilitary. Just as the anti-Communist Nixon could open relations with the Peoples' Republic of China so Ford may be the one who can lead the nation to reduce our military emphasis in the world and at home. He just may be able to open a new dialogue with the Soviets to head off the renewed arms race. His grasp that inflation is our Public Enemy may lead to revamping of our international financial, economic, and social policy.

In all such matters Nelson Rockefeller can prove a staunch ally and a clear and well-informed voice in the Cabinet and the National Security Council. His keen knowledge of international affairs should be an important backup to Secretary Kissinger.

The new Administration has begun with refreshing openness. The President is known to have friends with a

wide diversity of views. Among them, for example, are Congressman "Pete" McCloskey, an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War and the first Member of Congress to suggest impeachment, and Charles E. Goodell, former Senator from New York, another early opponent of the war.

□□ THE MILITARY BUDGET

There even seems to be a dawning recognition that there may be "warranted" cuts in the military budget. The President, in his first major speech, declared that he is opposed to "unwarranted" cuts in the defense budget. The word "unwarranted" may be of major significance. Perhaps the President would support many "warranted" cuts, which would decrease waste, reduce the chances of war, and build a more stable world and a stronger nation. We all know that the current military budget request is the largest on record and that Congress has already approved most of it. However, the House recently acted to cut Vietnam aid by a record high vote of 233 - 157, has also refused the Pentagon's request on several items, and may do so on more.

After the Labor Day recess the Congress will begin consideration of the FY 1975 Foreign Aid Bill. This contains our so-called "economic aid" program for Indochina, the money that actually pays the salaries of Thieu's administration, builds his refugee control camps, and allows his vast system of repression to function at a level which results in more political prisoners than any other country in the world. This is the money that U.S. Ambassador to Saigon, Graham Martin, has returned to Washington to lobby for specifically. Several Members of Congress are planning to offer amendments cutting aid to South Vietnam. Now is a good time to urge all members to vote for such cuts. The U.S. commitment should be to the Paris Peace Agreements, not to President Thieu.

□□ "LET'S CLEAN UP CONGRESS, TOO"

This is the heading of a sheet describing briefly the 14 races for Congress which BEM's National Council especially commends to our members for financial support. A copy will be included with these News Notes.

There are other races where the victory of one of the candidates over another is valuable. Our list was selected on the basis of the candidate's position and voting record on the war in Indochina and military spending; his or her need for funds; and a reasonably close race.

In many Congressional districts BEM has a concern to support candidates — incumbents or challengers — who may be counted upon to vote for measures in line with BEM's positions.

Other good candidates for our list have been suggested — one, in particular, calls for mention. Allard K. Lowenstein, a member of Congress, 1969 - 1970, was influential in the "Dump Johnson" movement because of LBJ's support of the Vietnam War. In 1972 New York was redistricted and Lowenstein was defeated in the primary by John J. Rooney, Republican, one of OPERATION HOUSECLEANING's "Deadly Dozen". This year Lowenstein is challenging Representative Wydler, a consistent supporter of the war in Vietnam and of high military expenditures. Lowenstein has no primary fight and has the support of the Democratic Party. Address: Lowenstein for Congress, 134 Rockaway Avenue, Valley Stream, N.Y. 11581.

□□ AMNESTY

One of the policy positions of BEM, as adopted by our National Council, is for "Amnesty, in accordance with American tradition, custom, and legal precedent, for those who opposed the Indochina War". The cartoon below summarizes what might be put into many words:



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President Ford showed courage in announcing, before the convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, his probable action for conditional amnesty.

We hope that there will be a widespread urging that these conditions be minimal or non-existent. Most of those for whom amnesty is being considered were *right*.

□□ LETTERS DO HAVE SOME EFFECT

Congressman Long (Democrat, Maryland) thinks BEM letters were crucial on his bill requiring the Administration to get advance approval of any deal to give or sell nuclear materials or technology to a foreign power. At Long's suggestion, BEM's National Office asked 68 selected BEM-ers to write their Congressmen on the bill.

Long heard from several Congressmen that they had voted for the bill because they had heard from their constituents. The bill passed 194 to 191. If only two more Congressmen had voted Nay instead of Yea, the measure would have been defeated.

It is worthwhile to write — especially on a business letterhead.

□□ CLOSING A MILITARY BASE

The following we quote from "Disarmament News & Views" for August 11, 1974, published by Nathaniel F. Cullinan, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, 10017.

"*Losing a military base isn't all that bad*" is the headline of a page and a half piece in the 27/7/74 *Business Week* about Massachusetts, which was hit with the closure of the Boston Naval Shipyard, the big South Boston annex of the yard, the Chelsea Naval Hospital, and near-abandonment of two Air Force bases.

"Massachusetts is well on its way to proving that major cutbacks in federal defense installations are a good idea, not only for the nation, but the affected local areas," Hale Champion, financial vice-president of Harvard and former chairman of the Massachusetts Commission on Federal Base Conversions, says in it. "It shows a good commercial replacement will be better in the long run for generation of secondary jobs," says Maureen Steinbruner, administrative coordinator of the Massachusetts Commission. "Better Gillette than the Navy," is Gerald W. Brush's line. He's Boston commerce and manpower director. Champion concludes that Massachusetts has no complaints about the Navy and Air Force moving out, considering its support for McGovern's defense cutback policies. "We ought to be glad to accept the challenge and prove that conversion is better," he says.

□□ CYPRUS

The Greek-Turkish conflict on Cyprus hit U.S. military-diplomacy like a torpedo, blowing up several assumptions that never were seaworthy. The primary thesis that our security is based on military power — the more firepower the greater the security — is sinking, whether the generals and defense industry concede it or not. When two members of NATO start gunning and bombing each other with U.S. weapons and we must depend on Russia to help stop it, who is an ally and where is the enemy?"

— "Between the Lines" — The Wells
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